

SWIFT MUSEUM
FOUNDATION, INC.
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MCMINN CO. AIRPORT (KMMI)

2026 Event Schedule

Sun-N-Fun
April 14—19
Lakeland, FL
Swift Dinner 4-16, 6:30pm

Swift National 2026
May 13—17
Granbury, TX

AirVenture 2026
July 20—26
Oshkosh, WI

West Coast Swift Wing
Sept. 23—27
Jackson, CA

If your Swift group is planning an event this year please let us know so we can include it in the event schedule.

Swift Museum Foundation, Inc.



Volume LVIII Issue #5

April 2026

From Your Board Chairman

Dear Members, Friends and Supporters,

Each year, the Swift Museum Foundation works to preserve, celebrate, and share the rich heritage entrusted to our care. None of this would be possible without the continued generosity and commitment of our community—and today, I'd like to highlight one of the most important ways you can make a meaningful impact: our annual fundraising raffle.

The Swift Raffle has become a cornerstone of our fundraising efforts. More than just an opportunity to win exciting prizes, it represents a collective investment in our mission. Every ticket purchased directly supports the preservation of our collections, the development of educational programs, the continual replenishment of much needed parts availability to keep our beloved aircraft flying, and the expansion of public access to our exhibits and resources.

In recent years, we have made tremendous strides thanks to your support. From restoring key artifacts to enhancing visitor experiences with a beautifully created museum packed with living history, your participation has allowed us to grow in ways that honor both our history and our future. The raffle plays a vital role in sustaining this momentum.

This year, we are proud to continue the tradition with an even more engaging raffle experience. I encourage each of you to visit swiftraffle.com to learn more, purchase tickets, and share the opportunity with friends, family, and colleagues. Your involvement—whether through participation or advocacy—makes a difference.

Fundraising is not simply about meeting financial goals; it is about building a community that believes in preserving something larger than ourselves. The Swift Museum Foundation thrives because of individuals like you who understand the value of history, education, and cultural stewardship.

On behalf of the Board and everyone involved with the Foundation, thank you for your ongoing support. Together, we ensure that the legacy we protect today will inspire generations to come.

Tickets Go On Sale, May 13th, 2026 @ swiftraffle.com

With sincere appreciation,

Paul S. Barnett

Chairman

Swift Museum Foundation, Inc.

SMF Committees**Executive**

Paul Barnett
Paul Mercandetti
Sam Swift
Scott Anderson

Nominating

Paul Barnett
Pick Freeman
Scott Anderson

Audit

Paul Barnett
Paul Mercandetti
Sam Swift

Finance

Sam Swift
Paul Barnett
Scott Anderson

Fund Raising

Jim "Frog" Jones

Newsletter

Pamela Nunley
Scott Anderson

National Convention

Paul Mercandetti
Sandy Mercandetti
Scott Anderson

Parts

Steve Wilson
Scott Anderson
Steve Roth

Formation

Paul Mercandetti
Jim Roberts

Building

Roger Weber
Scott Anderson
Paul Barnett

IT/Web

Heather Day

Aging Aircraft

Steve Wilson
Dave Carpenter

Executive Director's Report*By Scott Anderson*

We would like to welcome back Pam Nunley to the staff here at Headquarters!

Many of you know Pam who worked with her Dad and the Swift Museum Founder, Charlie Nelson, for 30 years. Pam retired as Executive Director in 2017 to help her daughter, Candi with Pam's new granddaughter, Quinn. As Quinn has grown, Pam's time has freed up some and with Sue moving on to the next chapter of her life, it was the perfect time for Pam to return to her "Swift" home and we are thrilled.

Pam's experience and her relationship with Paula, our most recent addition to our staff, is working out very well as Paula climbs the steep learning curve of supporting Swift caretakers with their needs. Both are doing a great job.

We have a great team and the vibe at Headquarters is positive. Charlie's legacy is secure with the return of Pam to us. We are hopeful that this trend will continue with Candi expressing interest in becoming a part of our staff after her retirement in a couple of years. On a recent visit to the museum, granddaughter Quinn wondered if she might become a museum tour guide someday. You bet Quinn, you bet!

West Coast Swift Wing Fly-in Dates*Karl Johanson, Brad Stahl, and your West Coast Swift Wing Team*

We have set our dates for the WCSW meeting at Jackson, CA (KJAQ) for Wednesday September 23rd to Sunday September 27th.

We have a block of rooms at the **Jackson Best Western Amador Inn (209) 223-0211**. Be sure to ask for the **Swift Group** room rate (same as last year at about \$105 per night). Event planning is ongoing and we will be sure to have something for everyone More to come.

Please contact me, Karl Johanson, at (619-548-0435) or email at swiftpilot@gmail.com with questions. Our on-site host is Brad Stahl and he can be reached at (805) 550-3577 or email at bstahl@piranha.com

Registration forms will be emailed in the next week or so. Looking forward to seeing you in September. For many of you, we expect to be in Granbury next month so see you even sooner!

**FOR SALE**

Complete ELI Gear with new bolts, bushings, and retract links.

\$3,900.00

Contact Swift Headquarters

423-745-9547

swiftmuseumfoundation@aol.com

The Story of Eugene Clay, From the Inside Out

By Jim Roberts

If you're reading this, chances are you've seen the timeless T-shirt sporting a cutaway image of the Swift in perspective, proclaiming, "The Swift...A Great Little Airplane From the Inside-out." You may even know the name of the artist, Eugene O. Clay. But how much do you really know about Eugene? His story piqued my interest when I found a photo of him, along with a single column telling his tale, in the Christmas 1945 issue of *The Globe Beam*.

Clay's time at Globe Aircraft Corporation began at the end of WWII, where he landed after five years with North American Aviation. At NAA he drew installation and proposal drawings for some of their most famous aircraft: the P-51, B-25, and T-6, among others. According to the *Beam*, "He drew the original lines for three of the company's plane designs, and made perspective inboard profiles and production breakdown drawings which sold those designs to the Army."

Once at Globe, he continued producing design and installation drawings, and was given the title of "Chief Designer," though, according to Swift historian, Stanley Thomas, he never functioned in that role. Chief Designer or not, there's no denying his talent, which shines through in the famous "Inside-Out" illustration. It premiered in the Christmas 1945 issue of *The Globe Beam*, bearing the title, "Profile of a Personal Plane, The Globe Swift."



From UCLA's digital library, this photo is captioned: **Claremont artist and stockroom assistant Eugene Clay finishes an oil painting in the chemistry laboratory of Pomona College, Claremont, 1936.**

By the 1930s he was living in Southern California. He studied art while living in Claremont and worked as an assistant in the chemistry laboratory at Pomona College. Clay was a competent fine art painter and an up and coming commercial illustrator.

But what do we know of his life outside of Globe Aircraft? According to biographer Gordon T. McClelland, writing on the website "LOT-ART," *In the late 1920s Eugene Clay was a high school student living in Bisbee, Arizona. At that time the city was a center for copper mining and to a lesser extent both gold and silver. The city itself had changed little since it was built around 1900, so, during his teenage years Clay had the experience of living in an old time western environment.*

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Founded —1968 by
Charles E. "Charlie" Nelson



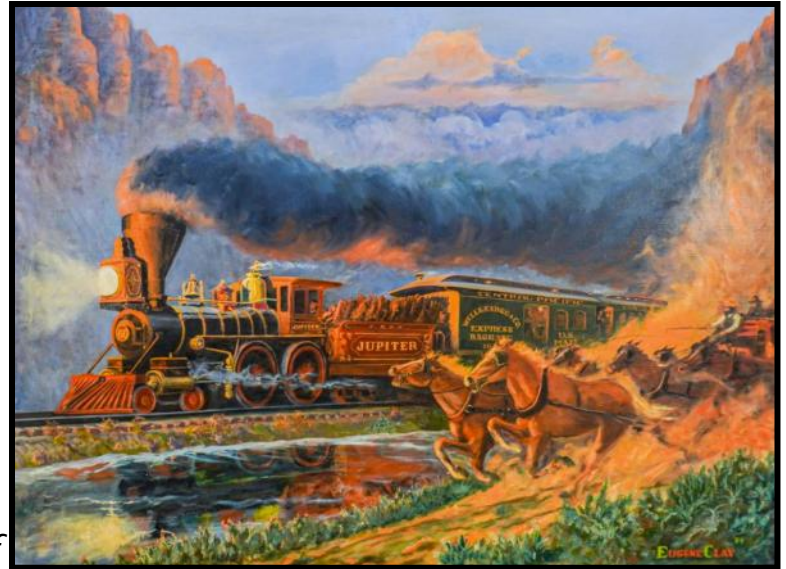
Gene Clay's *captivation with the early days of aviation is the subject of this oil painting, titled, "The Barnstormers."*

During the middle of his career Clay worked out of his art studio in Los Angeles. To make a living he primarily produced photography, commercial art and mural painting. On the side he produced a series of oil paintings inspired by his life experiences with barnstorming and others inspired by stories of gold mining in California, Arizona and Colorado. By the early 1970s he had produced a large number of paintings of both the barnstormers and the gold rush era. Aviation related murals by Eugene Clay were produced for the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics located near the Los Angeles County Airport.

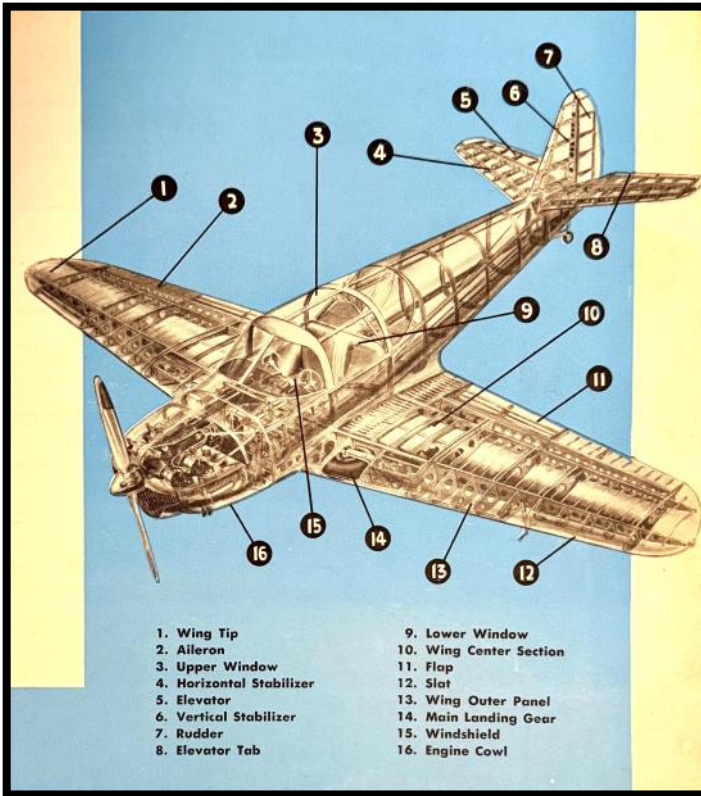
Besides his art talents, Eugene apparently had an eye for engineering, as related by Stanley Thomas in his book, "The Globe Temco Swift Story:" When Clay arrived at Globe Aircraft, the most serious problem affecting the airplane's certification was with the Swift's retractable landing gear. When Gene evaluated the problem he could see that the retraction system actuating mechanism was the source of the problem. The device was an inappropriate design, and it was badly made. Gene immediately had a suggestion. Contact the Adel company in Burbank, California. Obtain from them an appropriate hydraulically operated rack and pinion mechanism tailored for the Swift installation. Adel's prototype assemblies were subsequently hand-delivered by air to Globe. Although an improved version was later incorporated on the Swift, it was with Adel's original rack and pinion design that the Swift's landing gear retraction system was certified. So the next time you grab that gear handle, think of Gene Clay.

Sadly, nothing can be found of Clay's later life, but we do know that he was actively pursuing an art career into the 1970's. For us Swifters, his most enduring work is the "Inside-Out" drawing, which was reproduced many times in Globe Aircraft sales materials and aviation magazines of his era. Today, besides the T-shirt, the Swift Museum Foundation sells museum-quality color reproduction prints of that drawing. One hangs on my wall, and every time I look at it, I smile and say, "Thank you" to Eugene Clay.

From a young age he was fascinated with airplanes and learned to fly World War I surplus planes. The era of "Barnstormer" aviation performances with radical flying maneuvers, wing walkers, and parachute jumping antics was coming to an end, but Clay was able to get into the action during the final days.



Many of Clay's *paintings reflected the world he grew up in during the early 20th century. This work is titled, "Horse and Buggy Racing the Jupiter."*



Clay's inside-out drawing is used here in a Swift advertising brochure from 1946.

*Editor's note: Unframed, museum quality, prints like the one below are available from your Swift Museum.
 16 x 20 \$70.00 8 x 10 \$40.00*



This museum-quality print, sold by the Swift Museum Foundation, was a retirement gift from my coworkers at McGhee Tyson Airport. They chose well!



A dynamic Eugene Clay watercolor used in Swift advertising. *(See story Pgs. 3-5)*